

Education Governance Responses
Hartford Meeting (5/1/07) – Hartford High School Cafeteria

8 Attendees (facilitated by George Appenzeller)

Question #1: What are the advantages and disadvantages of the present education governance system in your community?:

Advantages

Intimacy/participation value (Union)
Elementary value – high school less so (Union)
One super & one board easier on them (focus on education not admin. Functions)-(District)
Well coordinated services – (District)
Clear/consistent curriculum – (District)
Transitions smoother – (District)
Consistent vision (K-12) – (District)
Contracts – staff less “politics” within – (District)

Disadvantages

Inconsistent “incoming” populations to master school – (Union)
Contract negotiations – numerous – (Union)
Ability to provide services; special education, testing – (Union)
Scale may limit plug in from parents/community – (District)
Responsiveness to create customization (over 2500+) – (District)
Micro-management of board at school level – (District)

Question #2: What are the advantages and disadvantages of the school district model suggested by Commissioner Cate in his White Paper?

Advantages

Efficiency in administrative functions – “myth of local control”
Contracts, procurement

Disadvantages

Lose local control: elements of value
Links to community w/consolidation

Debrief Comments:

School choice – impact on how this is structured
Boards – structured by grade level not community/town: K – 6, 7 – 8, & 9 - 12
Fewer positions needed – better “pool” to choose from
Value to economy of scale
Free up board to focus on education, not minutia
Human Resource management – who does what? Roles defined
Money saved with this?
Time freed up to devote to “real” work
Concerned about voices being heard at legislature and Governor